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Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 22 October 1998 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee, a letter dated 19 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, containing a request for exemption from the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Didier **Opertti**

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Annex

Letter dated 19 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

On 6 August 1990, the Security Council imposed sweeping sanctions on Iraq under its resolution 661 (1990), which, *inter alia*, prohibited Iraq from exporting goods of any kind and froze its assets abroad. These sanctions did not permit Iraq to obtain funds for the purchase of food and medicine, let alone for the payment of its contributions to international organizations.

For the first three years following the imposition of sanctions, Iraq paid its assessed contribution to the budget of the United Nations in local currency (Iraqi dinars), and the United Nations used these funds for disbursements on its premises and activities in Iraq. Since the end of 1992, however, the United Nations, having relocated most of its activities away from Iraq, the Organization has refused to accept Iraq's contribution in Iraqi dinars on the grounds that it has no activities on which disbursements can be made inside Iraq in Iraqi currency. It thus requested that the contribution in question be paid in convertible currency.

In view of Iraq's inability to pay its contribution in hard currency, given that it does not have the necessary financial resources owing to the comprehensive embargo being maintained against it, the contributions due from it came to exceed the permitted amount and it was deprived of its vote in the General Assembly at the beginning of 1995.

Since that time, Iraq has been endeavouring by the means prescribed and with all the required flexibility to present its request for exemption from the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter until such time as the sanctions are lifted, in full or in part. Certain States members of the Committee on Contributions, however, have been obstructing this endeavour for political reasons.

Iraq is one of the founding Members of the United Nations, and since the Organization was established it has paid its assessed contributions with regularity and has made many voluntary contributions to United Nations humanitarian, social and cultural activities. Iraq is currently being prevented from paying its share of the budget of the United Nations because it is being deprived of its financial resources and prevented from obtaining food and medicine for its people for a reason that is beyond its control. We are therefore submitting this request that Iraq be exempted from the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter until such time as the sanctions being maintained against it are lifted, either partially or completely.

(*Signed*) Nizar **Hamdoon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative